

## Kerr-McGee makes natgas discovery in U.S. Gulf

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*HOUSTON, Oct 22 (Reuters)*

Kerr-McGee Corp. said on Monday it has made a deepwater natural gas discovery in the U.S. Gulf of Mexico that it provisionally estimates as holding 300 billion to 500 billion cubic feet of gas.

The find was made at the company's Red Hawk prospect in Garden Banks block 877 of the Gulf of Mexico and is located in more than 5,300 feet of water.

The company, based in Oklahoma City, plans to drill an appraisal well south of the discovery to evaluate the extent of the field and is also considering development options.

Kerr-McGee operates Red Hawk with a 50 percent interest. Ocean Energy Inc. ) holds the remaining 50 percent. The two companies expect to drill another deepwater Gulf of Mexico prospect, South Titan, before the end of this year.

Total annual U.S. natural gas consumption is currently running at about 22 trillion cubic feet, or roughly 40 times the high-end of Kerr-McGee's estimate for the Red Hawk discovery.

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